



Why did you choose this system?

- Simple, sustainable system that is low risk
- Can optimise pasture with the higher stocking rate
- Enables young stock to be “looked after” better – ensuring they hold condition

What made you change from the previous system you were running?

- The main reason was around sustainability – including animals, people and the environment
- An added secondary benefit of the change was lifestyle

What were the steps/processes involved in converting to a Once a Day system?

- Heifers and second calvers were put on OAD in 2002 to try and hold condition and allow them more time to grow
- A 2003 trial run was implemented: 40% of the herd (which included: heifers, R2’s and some of the best producers) were put on OAD and the production losses were minimal
- In 2004 the whole herd was converted to OAD for the whole season

Pro’s of OAD all year round	Con’s of OAD all year round
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces pressure on heifers • Allows for lifestyle benefits while still maintaining a profitable system • Labour requirements can be reduced or maximised on other areas of the farm other than in the cow shed • Animal health – cows hold condition better, less lameness, no CIDR’s or inductions • Flexibility around farm management – can milk half the herd in the morning and the other half at night to reduce the time spent in the shed in one stint • Learning required as you go 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once-a-day genetic pool is still limited and minimal information • Some on farm management changes may be required • SCC can potentially increase if not managed • Likely production drops if cows and genetics are not aligned and managed adequately under the new system • Learning required as you go

Is Once a Day (OAD) for you?

More information:

Once-a-day milking: Possible and Profitable? <http://www.dairynz.co.nz/file/fileid/27312>

Does OAD Milking Improve Animal Welfare? <http://www.dairynz.co.nz/file/fileid/27395>

Social Impacts of Once-a-Day (OAD) Milking <http://www.dairynz.co.nz/file/fileid/27394>

Milk Production from Once-a-Day (OAD) Milking <http://www.dairynz.co.nz/file/fileid/27386>

OAD milking conference proceedings <http://www.dairynz.co.nz/page/pageid/2145856696>